

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)) Apparatus for the alignment of a stack of sheets, in particular for the feeder of a printing machine, said apparatus comprising: at least one pair of trimming elements which can be adjusted at distances relative to each other in a ~~preferably~~ substantially continuous manner in order to accommodate and align the stack of sheets between said trimming elements, ~~characterized in that~~ said trimming elements ~~are~~ coupled with each other for counter-directional motion, ~~so that~~ an automatic stop means for preventing an enlargement of the distance between the trimming elements, is provided and said stop means including a free-running free-wheel for an axle of a rotating non-driven positive-locking element, said positive-locking element including a gear rolling on a rack capable of being moved out of its positive-locked state in order to deactivate the stop means so that ~~this said~~ stop means can be deactivated if required.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~one of the previous~~ Claims 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the trimming elements extend in a fence-like manner in upward direction.
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in ~~one of the previous~~ Claims 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several pairs of trimming elements are provided.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein at least two pairs of said several pairs of trimming elements can
be adjusted in orthogonal directions relative to each other.